



Anglia Examination Syndicate Limited



A Company Registered in England: Company N° 2046325

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE / BUSINESS EXAMS FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Proficiency Level

Guidelines for teachers / Instructions for examiners

Procedure

The AES Proficiency Speaking Test consists of four Core Tasks. The test should take approximately 17 minutes to complete. It is conducted by you, the external examiner, with procedural help from an usher, when needed.

The Speaking Test comprises 25% of the total score for the entire examination.

Participants: 2 candidates per interview; examiner; usher, if desired.

Materials needed

Core Task 2: a set of 3/4 pictures / photographs for the candidates to look at and describe, compare and contrast, comment, identify, rank, choose the odd one out, hypothesise or speculate. Both candidates may be given the same set of visuals but asked to perform different tasks, or they may be provided with two different sets of pictures / photographs and invited to carry out a mutually collaborative task.

Core Task 3:

A set of visuals on which the task is based. Candidates will have to negotiate and collaborate with each other in order to complete a problem-solving task.

Core Task 4:

A set of two short topic-related passages or visuals for the candidates to read silently, think about the general topic and then be ready to react and expand on the topic.

Conducting the test

Core Task 1: 4 minutes in total.

The examiner welcomes and reassures the candidates. They are then encouraged to ask each other questions about certain aspects of their lives and lifestyles using prompts given by the examiner. After two minutes, the examiner then asks both candidates to reflect on certain aspects of learning a foreign language, the importance of English as a world language and/or certain areas of any of the other Proficiency exam papers they may have just taken.

Core Task 2: 4 minutes in total.

The examiner gives either one different set of pictures / photographs to each candidate or the same set of visual stimuli to both candidates. One candidate at a time is then given 1 minute to speak uninterrupted about one or more of the pictures / photographs. When both candidates have had their chance to fully exploit their visuals, the examiner will initiate a discussion with both candidates and him/herself about one or more of the topics illustrated / suggested by the visuals.

Core Task 3: 4 minutes in total.

Candidates are given a set of visual stimuli. They are then asked to negotiate and collaborate with each other in order to perform a problem-solving task. Towards the end of the task, the candidates are expected to reach a conclusion regardless of the fact they may or may not have reached an agreement. They can agree to differ. Once the task has come to an end, the examiner invites both candidates to comment on the outcome of their discussion.

Core Task 4: 5 minutes in total.

The examiner provides each candidate with one short passage / visual stimulus with some wording and invites them to read, examine and think about the purpose / main topic of the visuals in 1 minute. They are then asked to comment on their own materials and to discuss the purpose, source, intended audience and general theme of the extracts. The examiner usually brings in other aspects to the discussion.

Stay cheerful and encouraging, and when the test is over, thank the students and say "well done".